REMARKS

Status of Claims

The Office Action mailed July 5, 2005, has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. Claims 1-7 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 6 have been amended and no claims have been canceled or newly added. Therefore, claims 1-7 are pending in the application and are submitted for reconsideration.

This amendment changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, are presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Applicants thank the examiner for indicating that claim 5 contains allowable subject matter. Applicants have rewritten claim 5 in independent form and this claim is now believed to be in condition for allowance in accordance with the indication in the office action.

Objections to the Specification and Drawings

Applicants have amended the specification to address the objection in paragraph 1 of the office action. In addition, applicants have also amended the specification to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 5 and 6 are objected to for referencing the bearing counterpart, which was introduced in claim 4. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to suitably address the issues noted in the objections and applicants submit that these claims are now unobjectionable.

Prior Art Rejections

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,087,229 to Hewko et al. (hereafter "Hewko"). Claims 3, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hewko as applied to claim 1 above. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

As recited in the pending independent claims, the claimed invention relates to an installation structure for an electric rotating machine (2) to a wheel (1) of a motor vehicle. It

should be noted that the reference numerals used in the application are being provided herein for promoting ease of understanding and are not intended to limit the claimed invention in any way. The installation structure includes a wheel hub (3) fixed to and rotatable with the wheel, a bearing (7) through which the wheel hub is rotatably supported, a suspension (4) installed between a vehicle body (8) of the motor vehicle and the wheel, and a bearing support member (5) connected to a wheel-side section of the suspension and supporting the bearing. The electric rotating machine includes a power output shaft (2a) which fits with the wheel hub, and a flange (2b) for location of the electric rotating machine in a direction of an axis of the power output shaft.

One of the features of the claimed invention resides in the fact that the flange (2a) for location of the electric rotating machine in a direction of an axis of the power output shaft is brought into contact with a wheel-side section (or surface) of the bearing support member. The above wheel-side section faces towards the wheel in the direction of axis of the power output shaft as recited in the pending independent claims 1 and 4.

This recited feature provides the advantage that the flange of the electric rotating machine is in contact with the wheel-side section of the bearing support member when the electric rotating machine is installed in the direction of an arrow B from the outboard side of the vehicle, as shown, for example, in Fig. 1 of the drawings of the present application. Accordingly, the electric rotating machine can be installed to the wheel from the outboard side of the vehicle without changing existing parts and a conventional assembly line for assembling the existing parts. Therefore, a production cost and a number of assembly steps are minimized, while a production efficiency is improved by standardization of the assembly line.

In sharp contrast to these claimed features (and its advantages), Hewko discloses an independently suspended steerable motor wheel apparatus for a motor vehicle. The motor wheel apparatus includes a motor (electric rotating machine) 44, 48, 49 connected to a wheel 10 so that the wheel is driven by the motor. The motor includes a motor housing 44 and a housing 48 of a planetary reduction gear assembly 49. The housing 48 is located inside the motor housing 44. The motor housing 44 and the housing 48 are both installed and fixed to a *vehicle body-side* section or surface (which faces a vehicle body) of a steering knuckle (or support member) 16 as clearly shown in Fig. 3. Additionally, the housing 48 has a flange-like

section (no numeral) which is also in contact with the vehicle body-side section or surface of the steering knuckle.

Thus, both the motor housing 44 and the housing 48 having the flange-like section are installed to the vehicle body-side section or surface (which is the opposite to the wheel-side section) of the steering knuckle. Accordingly, when the motor is assembled to the steering knuckle and to the wheel, the motor will be installed from the inboard side (i.e., the side at which the vehicle body exists) of the vehicle. As a result, assembly operation for the motor becomes difficult and contrasts sharply with the above discussed advantageous effects of the claimed invention.

Therefore, neither the features recited in claims 1 or 4, nor their advantages, are disclosed or suggested by Hewko. Accordingly, the office action fails to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to the pending independent claims as required by section 103.

The dependent claims are also in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons, as discussed above, as the independent claims on which they ultimately depend. In addition, they recite additional patentable features when considered as a whole.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding the application, or if an examiner's amendment would facilitate the allowance of one or more of the claims, the examiner is courteously invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant hereby petitions for any needed extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date October 4, 2005

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